

Application No. 10/806,705
Amendment Dated August 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated May 18, 2005

Remarks

Claims 17-22 are pending.

Claim 17 stands rejected.

Claims 18-22 are objected to.

Claim 17 is amended.

Claim 18 has been cancelled.

Claims 23 and 24 have been added.

Claims 17 and 19-24 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawakami et al. (JP 09-027975A). The Examiner has also indicated that claims 18-22 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

Although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's contentions, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled dependent claim 18 and amended the allowable subject matter from that claim into independent claim 17. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claim 17 be withdrawn. Also, as pending claims 19-22 and new claims 23 and 24 depend therefrom they should be allowed for the same reason.

In view of the forgoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 17 and 19-24

Application No. 10/806,705
Amendment Dated August 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action Dated May 18, 2005

are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

SOFER & HAROUN, L.L.P.

By 

Joseph Sofeer
Reg. No 34,438
317 Madison Avenue
Suite 910
New York, NY 10017
(212) 697-2800

Dated: 8/11/05